

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED POSS DUPE

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47

ACTION ARA-17

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-12

NIC-01 AID-20 PC-04 CU-04 OMB-01 OPR-02 SY-07 RSR-01

/124 W

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R 062337 Z APR 73

FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9374

INFO USCINCSO FOR POLAD

UNCLAS CARACAS 2986

EO 11652: N/ A

TAGS: PINS, SCUL, VE

SUBJECT: STUDENT VIOLENCE- PRESIDENT' S REACTION

1. CARACAS A-182 NOTED THAT STUDENT DISTURBANCES ARE AGAIN
WIDESPREAD

.
SCHOOLS ARE CLOSING IN CARACAS (AT LEAST SEVEN SECONDARY SCHOOLS);
MARACAIBO (UNIVERSITY OF ZULIA AND SECONDARY SCHOOLS); MERIDA (ALL
SCHOOLS); CUMANA (UNIVERSITY AND SECONDARY SCHOOLS); AND
BARCELONA
AND PUERTO LA CRUZ (SECONDARY SCHOOLS).

2. UCV, AGAIN SCENE OF RIOTING, HAS BEEN TARGET OF RAIDS FROM
POLICE AND HOODLUMS; ADDED SHAME HAS BEEN HEAPED ON SCHOOL BY
PRESS
CLAIMS THAT CAMPUS IS GIVEN OVER TO DELINQUENTS, VAGABONDS AND DRUG
ADDICTS. PROFESSORS AND STUDENTS ARE TAKING SIDE OF STUDENTS
AGAINST
EFFORTS OF AUTHORITIESTO KEEP THEM IN SCHOOL. SECONDARY STUDENTS
OF
CARACAS AND LITTORAL COMMUNITIES PLAN GRAND MARCH APRIL 10 TO
PROTEST
" POLICE BRUTALITY" AND EXPULSIONS. OPPOSITION LET BY AD IS CASTIGATING

GOVERNMENT IN CONGRESS FOR " ILLEGAL REPRESSION." STATEMENT APRIL 5
BY EDUCATION MINISTRY' S GENERAL SCHOOLS COORDINATOR THAT STUDENT
SITUATION IN ALL VENEZUELA IS NORMAL HAS HOLLOW RING.

3. DURING WEEKLY PRESS CONFERENCE APRIL 5 PRESIDENT CALDERA NOTED
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NUMBERS OF POLICE INJURED AND POINTED OUT THAT WHATEVER POLICE DO
THEY ARE BLAMED FOR THEIR ROLE. CALDERA STATED IDEA IS TO PROVOKE
DEEDS WHICH DESTROY NORMALITY TO TGZ TO UPSET THE SYSTEM. IN ONE
OF STRONGEST STATEMENTS RECENTLY CALDERA ADMITTED POLICE
SOMETIMES

COMMIT EXCESSES, BUT CLAIMED THIS IS CAUSED BY SITUATIONS THEY FACE;
HE SAID PUBLIC OPINION IS DEMANDING STRONG ACTION. HE SAID AIM OF
DISTURBANCES IS TO CLOSE SCHOOLS, AND THAT THIS PRIMARILY AFFECTS
CHILDREN OF POOR. CALDERA SAID HE HAS EVIDENCE THAT LEFTIST PARTIES
ARE NOT BACKING THESE DISTURBANCES, BUT SAID SOME TEACHERS ARE. HE
SAID (IN REFERENCE TO MARCH 30 FORCIBLE POLICE ENTRY INTO ANDRES
BELLO

SCHOOL) THAT ONLY THOSE WHO MAINTAIN AUTHORITY IN THEIR CLASSROOMS,
WHO

DO NOT PERMIT MOLOTOV COCKTAILS AND SUBSTANCES FOR ATTACKING THE
POPULATION AND THE AUTHORITIES HAVE MORAL AUTHORITY TO CONDEMN
POLICE

EXCESSES. CALDERA ALSO CALLED ON JUDGES TO DO THEIR DUTY AND BEAR
IN MIND GRAVITY OF PROBLEM.

MCCLINTOCK

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